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OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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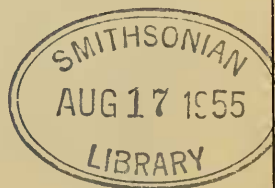
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 351

Acceptance of the emendation to *Dreissena* of the
generic name *Driessena* van Beneden, 1835 (Class
Pelecypoda)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 351

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Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

OPINION 351

ACCEPTANCE OF THE EMENDATION TO "DREISSENA" OF THE GENERIC NAME "DRIESSENA" VAN BENEDEN, 1835 (CLASS PELECYPODA)

RULING :—(1) It is hereby ruled that the emendation to *Dreissena* (published by van Beneden, 1835, *Ann. Sci. nat.*, Bruxelles) of the generic name *Driessena* van Beneden, 1835 (*Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.*) is a Valid Emendation of the foregoing generic name.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 872 : *Dreissena* (emend. of *Driessena*) van Beneden, 1835 (gender : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Mytulus* [ex err. pro *Mytilus*] *polymorphus* Pallas, 1771).

(3) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. severally specified below :—

(a) The under-mentioned names, each of which is an Invalid Original Spelling for *Driessena* (emend. of *Driessena*) van Beneden 1835 (Name Nos. 268 and 269 respectively) :—

(i) *Driessena* van Beneden, 1835 ;

(ii) *Driessenia* van Beneden, 1835 ;

(b) The under-mentioned name, being a spelling for *Driessena* van Beneden, 1835, used by an author in the same year as that in which van Beneden published an emendation of the generic name *Driessena* to the same form :— *Dreissena* Dumortier, 1835 (Name No. 270) ;

- (c) The under-mentioned names, each of which is an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling of *Dreissena* (emend. of *Driessena*) van Beneden, 1835 (Names Nos. 271 to 284 respectively) :—

- (i) *Dreissena* Clessin, 1880 ;
- (ii) *Dreissencia* Gillett, 1922 ;
- (iii) *Dreissenia* Bronn, 1848 ;
- (iv) *Dreissensa* Moquin-Tandon, 1856 ;
- (v) *Dreissensia* Bronn, 1862 ;
- (vi) *Dreissina* Sowerby (G.B.), 1839 ;
- (vii) *Dreistena* Boué, 1840 ;
- (viii) *Dresseina* Conrad, 1874 ;
- (ix) *Dressena* Germain, 1931 ;
- (x) *Dreysseina* Munier-Chalmas, 1864 ;
- (xi) *Dreyssena* Philippi, 1853 ;
- (xii) *Dreyssensia* Hébert & Munier-Chalmas, 1877 ;
- (xiii) *Dreyssentia* Bernard, 1895 ;
- (xiv) *Driessensia* Dewalque, 1863

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 484 : *polymorphus* Pallas, 1771, as published in the combination *Mytulus* [ex err. pro *Mytilus*] *polymorphus* (specific name of type species of *Dreissena* (emend. of *Driessena*) van Beneden, 1835).

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 20th April 1950, Mr. A. E. Ellis (*Epsom College, Epsom, England*) submitted to the Commission an application for the addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the names of forty-seven genera of non-Marine Mollusca (Class Pelecypoda, three ; Class Gastropoda, forty-four)¹. The following is an extract from the foregoing application of the portion relating to the generic name *Dreissena* van Beneden, 1835 :—

[Proposed for addition to the “ Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ”]

.....
Dreissena (feminine) van Beneden, 1835, *Bull. Acad. Belg.*, Cl. Sci. 2 : 25, as emended by Dumortier, 1835 (*ibid.* 2 : 44) from *Driessena* (type species, by monotypy : *Mytulus* [error for *Mytilus*] *polymorphus* Pallas, 1771, *Reise Prov. russisch. Reichs* 1 : 478)

.....
 [Proposed for addition to the “ Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology ”]

<i>Specific Trivial Name</i>	<i>Original Combination</i>
.....	
<i>polymorphus</i> Pallas, 1771	<i>Mytulus</i> [ex. err. pro <i>Mytilus</i>] <i>polymorphus</i>
.....	

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. **Registration of the present application :** On the receipt of Mr. Ellis's application the question of the addition to the *Official*

¹ The application submitted by Mr. Ellis has been published in full in *Opinion* 335 (See Vol. 10 : 45—76 of the present work). For the circumstances in which it was decided to deal with the generic name *Dreissena* van Beneden, 1835, in a separate *Opinion* see paragraph 4 of the present *Opinion*.

List of Generic Names in Zoology of the long list of names of genera of non-Marine Mollusca then submitted was allotted the Registered Number 470. When later, for the reasons explained in paragraph 4 below, it was decided to deal separately with the issues raised by the generic name *Dreissena* van Beneden, 1835, the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 839 was allotted to this subject and the earlier documents relating to this case were transferred to the new File so opened.

3. Publication of Mr. Ellis's application : Mr. Ellis's application containing, *inter alia*, his proposals relating to the generic name *Dreissena* van Beneden, 1835, was sent to the printer on 1st January 1951 and was published on 20th April of that year in Part 4 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Ellis, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 119—125).

4. Decision to deal separately with the problems raised by the generic name " *Dreissena* " van Beneden, 1835 : On 27th February 1954 a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)8) was issued to the Members of the Commission for the purpose of obtaining decisions on the proposals submitted by Mr. Ellis. During the Prescribed Voting Period Commissioner Tadeusz Jaczewski, on 8th May 1954, addressed a letter to the Secretary containing information which suggested that the name of the man whom van Beneden had sought to honour when he published the generic name *Driessena* was Dreissens and not, as hitherto thought, Dreissen, and therefore that the emendation of the name *Driessena* to *Dreissena* was incorrect and that the later emendation of this name to *Dreissensia* ought to be accepted. Immediately upon the receipt (on 11th May 1954) of Commissioner Jaczewski's letter, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, executed a Minute (numbered Z.N.(S.) 839), in which he gave directions that the proposals relating to the foregoing generic name be withdrawn from Mr. Ellis's main application² and be treated as a separate application submitted by that specialist.

² See footnote 1.

5. Submission to the Commission in May 1954 of separate proposals relating to the generic name "Dreissena" van Beneden, 1835 : On receiving from Commissioner Jaczewski the letter referred to in the preceding paragraph, Mr. Hemming took steps to ascertain the views of Mr. Ellis and in addition himself examined part of the older literature relating to the generic name originally published by van Beneden in 1835 with the spelling *Driessena*. On the completion of the foregoing investigations Mr. Hemming on 31st May 1954 submitted the following Report in which he brought to the notice of the members of the Commission the additional information furnished by Commissioner Jaczewski and submitted proposals for dealing with the present case in the light of the information so received.

The Pelecypod generic name originally published by van Beneden in 1835 with the spelling "Driessena"

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

On 27th February 1954, there was issued to the Commission Voting Paper V.P.(54)8 relating to a proposal to add to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the names of a considerable number of genera of non-marine Mollusca. Among these was the name originally published by van Beneden in 1835 with the spelling *Driessena*. In the proposal submitted it was recommended that the emendation of this name to *Dreissena* published by Dumortier in 1835 in the same volume as that containing van Beneden's new name should be accepted (see Ellis, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 229).

2. When returning his Voting Paper on this case Commissioner Tadeusz Jaczewski (Warsaw) informed me that his attention had been drawn by his colleague Professor Dr. St. Feliksiak (*Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw*) to the fact that this generic name had been published by van Beneden in honour of a M. Dreissens and therefore that the emendation to *Dreissensia* should be adopted in preference to the earlier emendation *Dreissena*, which, though it corrected the relative position of the letters "e" and "i" in the first syllable of this word, was nevertheless defective, in that it did not

include the last letter (the letter "s") of the name of the man after whom the generic name was published.

3. On receiving Professor Jaczewski's communication, I at once wrote to Mr. A. E. Ellis (the applicant in this case), asking him to let me know whether on the first publication of this generic name, van Beneden had cited the name of the man in whose honour this generic name had been coined, this being, under the Copenhagen Congress' decisions, the touchstone by which the acceptance of an emendation is to be judged in future. Second, I asked Mr. Ellis to furnish his views in the question of the relative weight of usage of the spellings *Dreissena* and *Dreissensia* respectively. Mr. Ellis has now informed me in a letter dated 16th May 1954, which is reproduced in an annexe to the present note that van Beneden expressly stated, when publishing this generic name, that it "est emprunté du nom de M. Driessens, pharmacien à Mazeyk" and that later (in the same year) he corrected the relative position of the letters "e" and "i" in this generic name and repeated his dedication of this name to M. Dreissens, the first syllable of whose name was cited correctly on this occasion. In communicating this information, Mr. Ellis added that, while the version *Dreissena* was more generally used by British conchologists, the spelling *Dreissensia* was more widely used by conchologists of Continental Europe.

4. It should be noted that in his letter Mr. Ellis makes it clear that the passages in the volume in which the foregoing generic name was first published in which it was spelled "*Dreissena*" in place of "*Driessena*" (: 44—47 and 166) are attributable not to van Beneden (as commonly stated, e.g., in Neave's *Nomenclator*) but to Dumortier. The fact that Dumortier spelled the first syllable "Drei-" and not "Drie-" is, however, significant, for, as his papers were published in the same volume as that of van Beneden and the first was a direct commentary on van Beneden's decision to establish this genus, his use of the "Drei-" spelling must be looked upon, not so much as an emendation of the "Drie-" spelling used by van Beneden as a reproduction of the spelling which he believed that van Beneden had used. Both men were, no doubt, acquainted personally with the "pharmacien à Maseyk". Dumortier's action constitutes, therefore, a remarkable, and exactly contemporaneous, piece of direct evidence that the "Drei-" spelling and not the "Drie-" spelling was intended by van Beneden.

5. It must be noted also that in the Index (: iii) to the volume in which this generic name of van Beneden's was published that generic name appears as *Driessenia*, i.e. with the letter "i" inserted before the terminal letter "a".

6. The Copenhagen Congress of 1953 (*Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 44, paragraph 71(1)(b)) decided that, where there is clear evidence in the original publication that an Original Spelling was based upon an inadvertent error (e.g., where an author states that he is proposing a name to honour Carolus Linnaeus but the name is printed as *ninnaei*), the spelling so printed is to be rejected as an Invalid Original Spelling. In these circumstances, it is clear that the only correct spelling for the generic name under consideration is one which comprises the name "Dreissens" correctly so spelt. Thus no version can be accepted in which either (a) the letters "e" and "i" in the first syllable are incorrectly transposed, or (b) the letter "s" at the end of the name "Dreissens" is omitted.

7. The only question remaining for consideration is whether the emended name should consist of the patronymic "Dreissens" with the addition of the letter "a", the termination used by van Beneden in the portion of his paper which appeared on page 25 of the volume concerned, or with the termination "-ia", the termination used in the index to that volume. This generic name was emended with the first of these terminations (as *Dreissensa*) by Moquin-Tandon in 1856 and with the second of these terminations (as *Dreissensia*) by Bronn in 1862 (*Klass. Ordn. Weich-Thiere* 3 : 478). In view of the fact that both these terminations were used by van Beneden when he established this nominal genus in 1835, it must, in the absence of a Ruling by the Commission, be a matter for individual judgment which of these terminations is to be preferred. When we take into account, that the emendation *Dreissensa* never acquired any vogue, while Bronn's emendation to *Dreissensia* is the one now generally accepted by specialists who do not retain the invalid emendation *Dreissensa*, there can be no doubt that the version *Dreissensia* published by Bronn is to be preferred. The evidence furnished by Mr. Ellis establishes conclusively that there is no case for the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the incorrect emendation *Dreissensa* published by Dumortier in 1835.

8. In addition to the emendations and misspellings discussed in the preceding paragraphs, other variant spellings of this name have been published at different times. It is recommended that, as part of the proposed settlement of the spelling to be used for this generic name, all these variants should be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* at the same time that the approved spelling *Dreissensia* (as published by Bronn in 1862) is placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, where, as an emendation, it would rank from the author (van Beneden) by whom it was published in an incorrect form and from the date (1835) on which the incorrect form was originally published. The variants which it is

suggested should be relegated to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names* are the following :—

Dreisena Clessin, 1880, *Malak. Bl.* (n.f.) **2** : 148

Dreissena Dumortier, 1835, *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : 44—47, 166 (an emendation of the name published by van Beneden in the same volume)

Dreissena van Beneden, 1835, *Ann. Sci. nat.*, Bruxelles (2) **3** : 193 (an emendation of the name published by himself in the same year as *Driessena* and *Driessenia*)

Dreissencia Gillet, 1922, *Bull. Soc. Hist. nat. Yonne* **75**(2) : 84

Dreissenia Bronn, 1848, *Index palaeont.* **1** : 437

Dreissensa Moquin-Tandon, 1856, *Hist. nat. Moll. France* **2** : 598

Driessena van Beneden, 1835, *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : 25 (one of two original spellings)

Driessenia van Beneden, 1835, *Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : Index iii (one of two original spellings)

Driessensia Dewalque, 1863, *Bull. Soc. géol. France* (2) **20** : 797

ANNEXE

Letter dated 16th May 1954, received from Mr. A. E. Ellis,
(Epsom College, Epsom, Surrey, England)

“ *Dreissena* ” van Beneden, 1835

In reply to your letter of 11th May, van Beneden, in proposing the generic name *Driessena*, definitely states (p. 26) that the name “ est emprunté du nom de M. Driessens, pharmacien à Mazeyk ”.

Dumortier, in a subsequent communication on van Beneden's new genus (*Bull. Acad. Belg.* **2** : pp. 44—47), consistently spells the name *Dreissena*, and states that *D. polymorpha* (Pallas) was discovered in Belgium by “ M. Dreissens of Maaseyck ”. On p. 166, in describing a new species, he also uses this emended spelling of the generic name.

Van Beneden himself (*Annales des Sciences naturelles*, 2nd series, **3** : 193, 1835), also emends the spelling to *Dreissena*, and (p. 196) refers to M. Dreissens. It is evident that his original spelling *Driessena* was a mistake.

Dreissena is used by practically all the British authors of the 19th Century—Brown, Forbes & Hanley, Gray, Jeffreys, Reeve, Williams, Rimmer, Adams ; Tate keeps the original spelling *Driessena*. *Dreissensia* seems to have been first used by Bronn, *Klass. & Ord. Thier-Reichs* 3, abth. 1,478 (1862), and Fischer, *Man. Conchyl.* p. 972 (1886) followed Bronn. Kennard & Woodward, *Synonymy of the British non-marine Mollusca*, p. 295 (1926) also adopt his emendation. The great majority of British authors use *Dreissena*, and I used this version of the name in my *Linnean Soc. Synopsis no. 4, Freshwater Bivalves* (1946).

I have not got many works by Continental authors, but I note that Geyer (1909), Germain (1931) and Ehrmann (1933) favour *Dreissensia*.

I do not think anyone will be upset whichever way the decision goes : probably British conchologists are more used to *Dreissena*, and Continental to *Dreissensia* ; if the latter is correct by the rules, so be it.

6. Discovery in June/July 1954 of additional information bearing on the spelling of the name of the man in whose honour the name “ Driessena ” van Beneden, 1835, was published : The paper by the Secretary reproduced in the immediately preceding paragraph was submitted to the Members of the Commission on 31st May 1954, together with a revised Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(54)10). Almost immediately afterwards Commissioner L. B. Holthuis reported that investigations undertaken by Mr. A. M. Husson (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) and himself suggested that there were serious doubts as to what was the correct spelling of the name of the apothecary of Maaseik after whom van Beneden had named the genus published with the name *Driessena*. On receipt of Commissioner Holthuis's letter Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, took the view that a further postponement of the present case was necessary and on 1st July 1954 he accordingly executed a Minute directing the withdrawal of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)10, in order that the whole circumstances of the present case might be further reviewed on the receipt from Commissioner Holthuis of the further report which he had undertaken to furnish on the completion of the investigations then being pursued by Mr. Husson and himself. The promised Report (dated 9th July 1954) was received on 10th July 1954 and showed that there were three more or less official

spellings of the name of the apothecary of Maaseik. Mr. Hemming thereupon prepared the following further Report bearing the number Z.N.(S.) 839, which he submitted to the Commission on 21st July 1954 :—

Revised proposals relating to the generic name “Driessena” van Beneden, 1835 (Class Pelecypoda)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

I am sorry to have to trouble the Commission again on the question of the spelling to be adopted for the generic name originally published by van Beneden in 1835 with the spelling *Driessena* (Class Pelecypoda), but for the reasons explained below I consider this to be necessary.

2. The Commission will recall that on 31st May last I submitted to it a paper on the foregoing subject, together with a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(54)10). In that paper I drew attention to a communication which I had received from Professor Dr. St. Feliksiak (*Warsaw*) through Commissioner Tadeusz Jaczewski (*Warsaw*), from which it appeared that the original publication of the name *Driessena* by van Beneden contained evidence that the man in whose honour this generic name was coined was a man whose name was spelt “Dreissens” (*i.e.*, with a terminal “s”). The arrangement of the vowels in the first syllable of this name, that is an “i” followed by an “e” had always been regarded as an accidental transposition and the first syllable had been emended by all workers from “Drie-” to “Drei-” but the communication referred to above suggested that the name should be further emended, so as to include a terminal “s”. Apart from the totally overlooked emendation *Dreissensa* Moquin-Tandon, 1855, the oldest such emendation was that by Bronn (1862) by whom this name was spelt “*Dreissensia*”. In the Voting Paper referred to above, the Commission was invited to vote on the question whether Bronn’s emendation “*Dreissensia*” should be adopted in place of the emendation “*Dreissena*” made by van Beneden himself in 1835, *i.e.*, in the same year as that in which this generic name was first published but in the *Ann. Sci. Nat.*, Bruxelles and not in the *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* (where this generic name first appeared).

3. The Commission in its vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)10 decided unanimously in favour of the adoption of Bronn’s emendation

“*Dreissensia*”, but just before the close on 1st July 1954, of the Prescribed Voting Period, I received from Dr. Holthuis a letter dated 28th June 1954, which contained, as I considered, new material relating to this case. The foregoing letter is reproduced in an Annexe to the present Note as Document 1. This led me, as Secretary to the Commission to issue a Direction that the proposals submitted in Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)10 were to be regarded as being temporarily suspended, pending the result of the further investigations which, as Dr. Holthuis explained in his letter, had been put in hand by his colleague Mr. A. M. Husson and himself. Dr. Holthuis’s promised further report was submitted in a letter dated 9th July 1954, which is reproduced in the Annexe to the present Note as Document 2.

4. The information contained in the second of Dr. Holthuis’s letters provides an interesting illustration of how recent in many cases are modern surnames and how short a time has elapsed since such names have crystallised into a permanent form. In the present case we see that in the official records of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as it existed prior to the establishment of a separate Kingdom of Belgium, the name of the man in whose honour van Beneden coined the generic name with which we are here concerned was spelt in no less than three different ways, namely :—

- (1) Driessens, in his baptismal certificate ;
- (2) Dreissen, in the records of the Dutch Registrar’s Office ;
- (3) Dreissen, in the Provincial Records ;
- (4) Dreissens, in his death certificate.

5. In these circumstances, we see at once that there is no spelling of this name which is the sole correct spelling to the exclusion of all other spellings. It follows therefore that the normal criteria for determining what is the correct spelling of a scientific name do not apply in the present case and that some other criterion must be adopted. In the further consideration of this matter, it will be convenient to examine first the question of the spelling to be adopted for the initial syllable of the generic name with which we are concerned and, second, the question whether or not the letter “s” should be inserted after the letter “n” at the end of the name.

6. In the light of the information furnished by Dr. Holthuis it can no longer be stated categorically that the “ie” spelling of the first syllable of this name is a mistake for “ei” since, as we have seen, this is the spelling used in the baptismal certificate of the man who was later to be known at the “apothecary of Maaseik”. What,

however, we can say with confidence is that from the standpoint of van Beneden in 1835 the "ei" spelling was the preferred spelling, for, although the "ie" spelling was used in the place where this generic name first appeared, this spelling was emended to the "ei" form by the apothecary's friend Dumortier in the same volume (see paragraph 4 of my note of 31st May 1954) and was similarly emended by van Beneden himself in a paper published in the same year (1835) but in a different periodical (see paragraph 2 above). It is reasonable therefore to conclude that as at 1835 the "ei" spelling was that preferred by van Beneden and that the use of the "ie" spelling in the original publication of this generic name was due to some inadvertence. Even on narrow nomenclatorial grounds there appears therefore to be good reason for emending van Beneden's generic name from the "ie" spelling to the "ei" spelling. If we look at this matter from a wider point of view, we cannot help being struck by the unanimous acceptance by later workers of the "ei" spelling for this generic name. In these circumstances it would clearly lead to undesirable name-changing to revert at this stage to the "ie" spelling, even if it could be shown—which, as Dr. Holthuis has shown is clearly not the case—that the "ie" spelling was correct and the "ei" spelling incorrect. I conclude therefore that in the peculiar circumstances of the present case (1) the "ei" spelling is as correct as the "ie" spelling, (2) that there is evidence to show that the "ei" spelling is that which was favoured by van Beneden (notwithstanding his use of the "ie" spelling in his original paper) and (3) that, in view of the later history of this name, the interests of stability in nomenclature will be best served by accepting the emendation to the "ei" spelling made by van Beneden himself in the same year as that in which he first published this generic name.

7. When we turn to consider the question whether the letter "s" should be inserted after the letter "n" in this generic name, we are faced with a situation very similar to that discussed above in connection with the spelling to be adopted for the first syllable of this generic name. The name of the apothecary of Maaseik was spelt without a terminal letter "s" in two of the four official records investigated by Dr. Holthuis and Mr. Husson but with such a termination in the first and fourth of these records (see paragraph 4 above). We must conclude therefore that at the date when van Beneden published his generic name the spellings with, and without, the terminal letter "s" were each as correct as the other, there being at that time no spelling which was the right spelling to the exclusion of the other. When we look at van Beneden's own writings, we find (1) that he spelt his new generic name without a letter "s" after the letter "n" but (2) that, in explaining that he had chosen this name for the purpose of honouring the apothecary of Maaseik, he spelt the latter's name with a terminal "s". At first sight this action gives the impression of inconsistency,

but on closer inspection it does not do so. For van Beneden no doubt knew that the spelling without a terminal "s" was as permissible as that with such a termination and he may well have taken the view that in these circumstances either spelling could properly be used for the basis of his generic name and may have considered that the spelling without the added letter constituted a more euphonious basis for a generic name than the spelling with the terminal letter "s". Whether or not this is the correct explanation, the fact remains that van Beneden himself never included the letter "s" after the letter "n" in this generic name and that on three occasions in 1835 where he referred to this name—that is, (a) in the *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.*, where this name was first published, (b) in the index to the volume for 1835 of the above serial, and (c) in the *Ann. Sci. Nat.*, Bruxelles—he spelt it without the additional letter "s". It may, I think, be concluded from this evidence (1) that the spellings with and without the letter "s" after the letter "n" are equally acceptable, neither being more correct than the other, and (2) that the omission of the letter "s" by van Beneden represented a deliberate decision on his part as to how his new generic name should be spelt. There is certainly no evidence to the contrary, and I now consider therefore that there are no adequate grounds for emending this name by the insertion of the letter "s" after the letter "n".

8. For the reason set forth in the two immediately preceding paragraphs I have reached the conclusion in the light of the interesting and instructive information collected by Dr. Holthuis and Mr. Husson that the correct course would be for the Commission to accept for the generic name published by van Beneden in 1835 in the *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* as *Driessena* the emendation *Dreissena* published by van Beneden himself in the same year in the *Ann. Sci. Nat.*

9. I accordingly recommend that in the light of the additional information now available the Commission should substitute for the vote taken by it on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)10, a decision (1) accepting the emendation *Dreissena* made by van Beneden in 1835 (see paragraph 8 above), (2) placing the name *Dreissena* (emend. by van Beneden (1835) of *Driessena*) van Beneden, 1835 (gender: feminine) (type species, by monotypy: *Mytulus* (error for *Mytilus*) *polymorphus* Pallas, 1771) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, (3) placing on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* (i) the Invalid Emendation *Dreissensia* Bronn, 1862, and (ii) the variant spellings enumerated in paragraph 8 of the paper dated 31st May 1954, which I submitted to the Commission concurrently with Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)10, other than the emendation *Dreissena* van Beneden, 1835, which under (1) above it is now proposed should be accepted, (4) placing on the *Official*

List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *polymorphus* Pallas, 1771, as published in the combination cited in (2) above.

ANNEXE

Extracts from letters from Dr. L. B. Holthuis, dated 28th June and 9th July 1954, respectively

DOCUMENT NO. 1

Extract from a letter dated 28th June 1954

I have received some information concerning the name of the man to whom the genus *Driessena* was dedicated, which will be of some interest to the Commission and which might influence their decision in this question.

Mr. A. M. Husson, our curator of mammals, who is an amateur malacologist, told me that several years ago he had become interested in the person of the apothecary of Maaseik for whom the genus *Driessena* was named. Mr. Husson in the course of his investigations had become doubtful as to whether Dreissens actually is the correct spelling of the name of this gentleman, as at present is generally accepted by malacologists (in the old Maaseik pharmacy, for instance, the name was written Dreessen). Mr. Husson also found out that the person discussed here was born in the Dutch town of Sittard. Because of lack of time Mr. Husson had discontinued his investigation, but now that the spelling of the name *Driessena* has come up for decision by the Commission, he and I decided to take the matter up again. Therefore we have written for information to the keeper of the archives of the municipality of Sittard. In answer to our request we recently received the information that in the administrative memorials of the province of Limburg a Mr. Henri Dreissen is mentioned as having passed the examination for apothecary on November 12, 1823 and that later the same man (his name again spelled Dreissen) is indicated as being apothecary in Maaseik. The keeper of the Sittard archives now tries to locate for us the birth registration of Dreissen or Dreissens, in order to get final certainty as to the correct spelling of his name. Also the registrar's office in Maaseik (Belgium) is contacted.

Though it is quite immaterial to me what name is given to the genus of fresh-water mussels, it seems illogical that the Commission should revoke its former decision to place this name on the *Official List* in the spelling *Dreissena* if that indeed would prove to be the correct name, the more so as *Dreissena*, like *Dreissensia*, seems to be currently used in malacological literature.

I would suggest therefore that the Commission do not take a final decision in this matter till it has more information on the correct spelling of the name of the Maaseik apothecary. Mr. Husson and I are doing all we can to solve the problem of the name of Mr. Dreissen(s) as soon as possible and we intend to go ourselves to Sittard and Maaseik if that proves to be helpful.

DOCUMENT NO. 2

Letter dated 9th July 1954

Mr. Husson and I have made some progress with our investigations on the correct spelling of the name of the man for whom the Mollusc genus *Driessena* was named. The question proves to be quite complicated.

The archives of the Dutch province of Limburg contain the certificate of baptism of the subject of our interest which reads as follows : "15ta Augusti 1782 (baptizatus est) Joannes Henricus legitimus Cornelii Henrici Driessens et Mariae Margarethae Hausmans conjugum ex Stadbroich : susceptores Henricus Hausmans et Bellarmina Houben nomine Mariae Catharinae Driessen". In this certificate both the names Driessens (for the father) and Driessen (for an aunt) are used. As the keeper of the archives of the town of Sittard informed us, at that time the family names were not fixed ; the fixation of these names took place with the introduction of the registrar's office, which in the town of Sittard was not until 1798.

In the records of the registrar's office in Sittard the family name consistently has been written Dreissen (e.g., when the death of the mother of our apothecary in 1812, and that of his father in 1831, was registered). This same name has been used in the register of apothecaries of the Dutch province of Limburg (1824—1832). When around 1832 Belgium separated itself from The Netherlands, the

town of Maaseik became Belgian. From that time the administration of the Dutch province of Limburg did not cover any longer the town of Maaseik and no mention of Dreissen is made in the Dutch archives covering the period after 1832.

The death certificate of Dreissen, which is kept in the archives of Maaseik, spelled his name Dreissens (information provided by the burgomaster of Maaseik). It probably is this source which induced most authors to accept Dreissens as the correct spelling.

We find thus that there are three more or less official spellings of the name of the apothecary of Maaseik : Driessens (baptismal certificate), Dreissen (Dutch registrar's office record and provincial records), Dreissens (death certificate). It seems to me that in the light of this information both the spellings *Dreissena* and *Dreissensia* have equal rights. Taking into account the fact that van Beneden himself accepted the spelling *Dreissena* in his later papers and that he evidently intentionally omitted the third "s" in the generic name that he proposed, while furthermore the name *Dreissena* is adopted by at least as many modern authors as the name *Dreissensia*, I personally would prefer the spelling *Dreissena* to that of *Dreissensia* as the officially recognised spelling of this name.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)20 : On 21st July 1954, a revised Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(54)20) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to take note "that for the reasons set out in Paper Z.N.(S.) 839 circulated simultaneously with the present Voting Paper the Secretary to the Commission has withdrawn the Voting Paper numbered V.P.(O.M.)(54)10 issued on 31st May 1954³, in the matter of the

³ See paragraph 6 of the present *Opinion*.

spelling to be adopted for the generic name originally published as *Driessena* by van Beneden in 1835, and, having studied the fresh information submitted in the foregoing paper", to vote either for, or against, "the Revised Proposal set out in paragraph 9 of that paper" [i.e. as set out in paragraph 9 of the paper reproduced in paragraph 6 of the present *Opinion*].

8. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period would normally have closed on 21st August 1954, but the Secretary decided that, having regard to the fact that this Voting Paper had been issued at a time of year when many zoologists were away from their headquarters either on field work or on holiday, it was desirable that an extension of the normal Voting Period should be granted in order to give every member of the Commission a full opportunity of voting on the present case. Mr. Hemming accordingly executed a Minute directing that the Prescribed Voting Period be extended to 12th September 1954 or the date of the return to the Office of the Commission of the last of the Voting Papers issued to Commissioners, whichever was the earlier. The last of the Voting Papers issued was received in the Office of the Commission on 6th September 1954, on which date therefore the Voting Period was brought to a close.

9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)20 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, extended in the manner explained in paragraph 8 above, the state of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)20 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following eighteen (18) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which votes were received) :*

Hemming ; Holthuis ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Mertens ;
Hering ; Boschma ; do Amaral ; Riley ; Vokes ;
Bradley (J.C.) ; Lemche ; Esaki ; Stoll ; Pearson ;
Bonnet ; Dymond ; Cabrera ; Hankó ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Jaczewski ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

10. Declaration of Result of Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (54)20 : On 6th September 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)20, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. Addition to the “ Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology ” of further variant spellings of the generic name published in 1835 with the spelling “ Driessena ” : On 30th September 1954, Mr. Hemming executed the following Minute directing the addition to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* of certain additional variant spellings of the generic name published by van Beneden in 1835 with the spelling *Driessena* :—

Addition to the “ Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology ” of additional variant spellings of the generic name “ Driessena ” van Beneden, 1835

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,
Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

Since the preparation of the list of variant spellings for the generic name *Driessena* van Beneden, 1835, given in paragraph 8 of the paper

(numbered Z.N.(S.) 839) submitted to the Commission by myself on 31st May last⁴, I have received particulars of other variant spellings of the foregoing generic name from two sources, namely : (1) Professor Dr. T. Jaczewski (letter dated 8th June 1954) ; (2) Mr. A. M. Husson and Dr. L. B. Holthuis (a paper entitled *De naam Dreissena, een nomenclatorische puzzle* (published on 15th September 1954 (*Basteria* 18(3) : 29—36)).

2. Commissioner Jaczewski reported the following additional variants which Professor Dr. Feliksiak suggested should be included in the list of variant spellings now to be disposed of :—

Dreissina Sowerby (G.B.), 1842, *Conch. Manual* (ed. 2) : 141

Dreyssena Hensche, 1861, *Schrift. phys.-ökon. Ges.*, Königsberg 2 : 89

Dreysseitia Bernard, 1895, *Elem. Paléont.* : 561

Dreysseitia Honigmann, 1909, *Z. Naturw.* 81 : 300

3. The paper by Mr. Husson and Dr. Holthuis brought to light the following variant spellings that had not been cited in the list given in my paper of 31st May 1954 and in addition had not been included in the list by Dr. Feliksiak furnished by Commissioner Jaczewski :—

Dreistena Boué, 1840, *Turquie d'Eur.* 1 : 477

Dresseina Conrad, 1874, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 1874 : 29

Dressena Germain, 1931, *Faun. France* 22 : 775

Dreysseina Munier-Chalmas, 1864, *Bull. Soc. linn. Normandie* 8 : 97

4. In addition, the paper by Mr. Husson and Dr. Holthuis contained earlier references for three of the spellings included in the list drawn up by Dr. Feliksiak, namely :—

Dreissina Sowerby (G.B.), 1839, *Conch. Manual* (ed. 1) : 40, 121

Dreyssena Philippi, 1853, *Handb. Conchyliol. Malacozool.* : 364

Dreysennsia Hébert & Munier-Chalmas, 1877, *C. R. Acad. Sci.*, Paris 85 : 126.

5. Having regard to the General Directives issued to the Commission by the International Congresses of Zoology (a) that *Opinions* rendered by it must cover the whole of the ground involved in any given case and (b) that any name found by the Commission to be objectively invalid is to be placed on the appropriate *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names*, I now, as Secretary to the Commission, hereby direct that the under-mentioned invalid variant spellings of the name published by van Beneden in 1835 as *Driessena* be added to the

⁴ See paragraph 5 of the present *Opinion*.

list of such names specified in paragraph 8 of my paper Z.N.(S.) 839 as being names to be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*, namely : (i) *Dreissina* Sowerby (G.B.), 1839 ; (ii) *Dreistena* Boué, 1840 ; (iii) *Dresseina* Conrad, 1874 ; (iv) *Dressena* Germain, 1931 ; (v) *Dreysseina* Munier-Chalmas, 1864 ; (vi) *Dreysena* Philippi, 1853 ; (vii) *Dreysensia* Hébert & Munier-Chalmas, 1877 ; (viii) *Dreysentia* Bernard, 1895.

12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " :
On 30th November 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(54)20, subject to the amplifications specified in the Minute executed by the Secretary on 30th September 1954 (reproduced in paragraph 11 of the present *Opinion*).

13. The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :

- Dreissena* Clessin, 1880, *Malak. Bl.* (n.s.) **2** : 148
Dreissena van Beneden, 1835, *Ann. Sci. nat.*, Bruxelles (2)**3** : 193
Dreissena Dumortier, 1835, *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : 44—47, 166
Dreissencia Gillet, 1922, *Bull. Soc. Hist. nat. Yonne* **75**(2) : 84
Dreissenia Bronn, 1848, *Index paléont.* **1**(1) : 437
Dreissensa Moquin-Tandon, 1856, *Hist. nat. Moll. France* **2** : 598
Dreissensia Bronn, 1862, *Klass. Ordn. Thier.* **3**(1) : 352, 360, 364, 388, 390, 406, 436, 471, 478, 486, 499, 508
Dreissina Sowerby (G.B.), 1839, *Conch. Manual* (ed. 1) : 40, 121
Dreistena Boué, 1840, *Turquie d'Eur.* **1** : 477
Dresseina Conrad, 1874, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* **1874** : 29
Dressena Germain, 1931, *Faun. France* **22** : 775
Dreysseina Munier-Chalmas, 1864, *Bull. Soc. linn. Normandie* **8** : 97
Dreysena Philippi, 1853, *Handb. Conchyliol. Malacozool.* : 364
Dreysensia Hébert & Munier-Chalmas, 1877, *C.R. Acad. Sci.*, Paris **85** : 126

- Dreyssentia* Bernard, 1895, *Elém. Paléont.* : 561
Driessena van Beneden, 1835, *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : 25
Driessenia van Beneden, 1835, *Bull. Acad. roy. Sci. Belg.* **2** : Index
 iii, x
Driessensia Dewalque, 1863, *Bull. Soc. géol. France* (2) **20** : 797
polymorphus, *Mytilus* [ex err. pro *Mytilus*], Pallas, 1771, *Reise
 Prov. russisch. Reichs* **1** : 478

14. The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has not been possible since then to deal with this aspect of the present case. This question is however now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 78 has been allotted.

15. At the time of the submission of the original application by Mr. Ellis dealt with in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

16. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly

hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

17. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Fifty-One (351) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Thirtieth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING